ADB loan for drinking water in Bihar

*440. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has given any loan or grant to Bihar during the last two years for providing drinking water in villages of all the districts of the State;

(b) if so, the villages/districts identified for the purpose;

(c) the quantum of funds allocated to each village/district; and

(d) the progress made so far, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Retirement age of Air Hostesses

3079. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some time back, the Supreme Court of India pronounced a judgement ruling that the air hostesses employed in Air India should be assigned flying air hostesses duties till the age of 58 years instead of 45;

(b) if so, whether Government have started implementing the decision;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any guidelines have been put in place specifying the health and fitness standards for such duties and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai had, *inter alia,* allowed the air hostesses to fly upto the age of 58 years. Hon'ble Supreme Court, while hearing the Special Leave Petition against the order of Hon'ble High Court has, as an

interim order permitted the air hostesses to fly upto the age of 58 years.

(b) The Air Ihdia management has complied with the direction given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Hon'ble Mumbai High Court has not given any guidelines specifying the health and fitness standards for such duties but merely observed that all the cabin crew (both workmen and executive) shall have to undergo annual medical examination after the age of 35 years and shall also be subject to weight checks at all times irrespective of sex. These checks have been put in place by Air India.

Expansion of Dibrugarh Airport

3080. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for neglecting expansion of Dibrugarh Airport lounges, which are very much congested in comparison to the number of passengers; and

(b) whether Government would consider to improve the airport upto international standard in near future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Plans are in hand to construct a new terminal building complex at Dibrugarh airport to cater to 500 passengers at a time with all modern amenities. Necessary sanction has been issued and work is likely to be commenced after acquiring the. required land from State Government. Action has already been initiated for extension of the existing runway length to 7500 feet to make this airport suitable for operation of AB-320 type of aircraft. The existing Instrument Landing System at this airport is also proposed to be replaced.